

Message Text

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NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 08667 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 02 NOV

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S E C R E T GENEVA 8667

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN CONFERENCE: NOV 2 MEETING WITH IVOR RICHARD

1. I CALLED ON RICHARD AS MY FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS THIS MORNING TO REVIEW WITH HIM MY NOV 1 CONVERSATION WITH SMITH AND HIS THOUGHTS ON HOW HE WOULD NEGOTIATE THE QUESTION OF A DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND MAJORITY RULE IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE NATIONALISTS AND SMITH TODAY.

2. I TOLD RICHARD THAT SMITH HAD SHOWN GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN HIS APPROACH TO THE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE WITH ME THAN HE

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HAD DURING HIS NOV 1 MEETING WITH RICHARD. I SHARED WITH

HIM MY JUDGEMENT THAT SMITH'S POSITION NEEDED TO BE RESPECTED. SMITH REGARDS HIS SEPT 24 SPEECH AS A MAJOR CONCESSION. HE MAY NOW FEEL HIMSELF CAUGHT IN A ROLLING BARRAGE OF BRITISH AND AFRICAN DEMANDS. SINCE HE DOES NOT SEE ANY END TO THE SETTING OF PRECONDITIONS, HE MAY FEEL THAT HE HAS TO STAND FAST.

3. I WAS BRUTALLY FRANK WITH RICHARD AND SAID THAT IT WAS ALSO MY IMPRESSION RHODESIANS FELT THE BRITISH HAD LITTLE RESPECT FOR THEIR SENSITIVITIES. MY OBSERVATION HAD INSTANT EFFECT. RICHARD ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS SOME TRUTH IN MY OBSERVATION. HE POINTED OUT THE SESSIONS WITH SMITH WHICH WERE ESPECIALLY ABRASIVE WERE THOSE AT WHICH SMITH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HARD-LINE MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION. WHENEVER SMITH NEGOTIATED ALONE HE WAS MORE REASONABLE. I SUGGESTED, WHATEVER HE THOUGHT OF SMITH, HE SHOULD BE TREATED WITH THE SAME RESPECT AT OTHER HEADS OF DELEGATIONS.

4. RICHARD AGREED THAT HE AND THE RHODESIANS HAD NOT DEVELOPED A FRANK RELATIONSHIP. EVEN THOUGH HE HAD ASSURED THE RHODESIANS HE WOULD FIGHT FOR ANNEX C, THEY HAD NOT GIVEN HIM THEIR CONFIDENCE AND THE TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY HE NEEDS TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVE. HE WANTED THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ONLY WAY THE AFRICANS WOULD ACCEPT ANNEX C WOULD BE FOR HIM TO CONVINCE THE AFRICANS THAT ANNEX C WAS AN AFRICAN IDEA.

5. RICHARD HAD ASSURED SMITH THAT HE CONSIDERED THE INDEPENDENCE DATE AS A TARGET, NOT A CONTRACT. IF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT FAILED TO COMPLETE ITS BUSINESS AND DID NOT DEVELOP A CONSTITUTION, INDEPENDENCE WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED. UNFORTUNATELY SMITH HAD LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT WHILE HE MADE CONCESSIONS ON SEPT 24, HE IS NOW "CRAWLING BACK," HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE DATE IS A CASE IN POINT. "IF HE CAN'T SHOW FLEXIBILITY ON ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE HE HAS ALREADY CONCEDED THEN HE HAS A HARD TIME AHEAD."

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6. I REMINDED RICHARD THAT FROM SMITH'S POINT OF VIEW HE HAS MADE CONCESSIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RECIPROCATED AND URGED HIM TO LEAVE THE QUESTION OF A DATE OF INDEPENDENCE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE IN HIS CONSULTATIONS TODAY SO THAT THE RHODESIANS DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE BEING TRAPPED.

7. TONY DUFF THEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF MAJORITY RULE. HE REMINDED RICHARD THAT CONFIRMING A DATE OF INDEPENDENCE COULD FORCE A DEFINITION OF MAJORITY RULE. I REVIEWED WITH RICHARD AND DUFF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SMITH AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON THE ISSUE OF THE FRANCHISE AND "ONE MAN, ONE VOTE." I TOLD THEM THAT SMITH KNEW WE COULD NOT FORMALLY DENY THE PRINCIPLE OF "ONE MAN, ONE VOTE" BUT THAT WE AND THE BRITISH WOULD NOT OPPOSE A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE. IN FACT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD ASSURED US A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL THINKING. RICHARD AGREED THAT THE ISSUE WAS DELICATE ONE AND THAT HE MUST AVOID LETTING THE QUESTION EMERGE AT THIS POINT IN THE CONFERENCE. CATTO UNQTE ROBINSON

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